over-crowding to a very large extent. From the normal revenues of the year it has not been possible to find adequate funds for effecting the necessary improvements to these institutions. I have, therefore, set apart a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs for improving the accommodation in all such buildings. An amount of Rs. 75,000 has also been provided for improving the accommodation and equipments in the medical institutions of the State. The plans and estimates for all these improvements are now ready, and orders have been issued to start the works early next year and complete them within nine months. When these works are finished it will be found that the accommodation in our schools and medical institutions has improved in a satisfactory manner.

CAPITAL ASSETS

6. In my last budget speech I gave some account of the position relating to the public debt of the State and the assets and liabilities of the Cochin Government. The position continues to be eminently satisfactory. Our main liabilities are still the amount of Rs. 105 lakhs due to the public on the two loans and Rs. 22 lakhs taken from the Government of India as a loan for harbour purposes. Apart from various minor assets, our main investments alone are over Rs. 256 lakhs. At the end of the current year our total investment in the Harbour will amount to Rs. 96·81 lakhs. This figure represents the following items of investments: amount advanced during the earlier stages, Rs. 3·92 lakhs; cost of the reclamation of 100 acres owned by the Cochin Government, Rs. 15 lakhs; advance for the Fourth Stage Works, Rs. 63·43 lakhs; advance for the purchase of a dredger, Rs. 13·33 lakhs; advance for building ware-houses, Rs. 1·13 lakhs. The total amount spent on the conversion of the railway into broad gauge and the diversion from Edapilli will amount to Rs. 84·54 lakhs at the end of the current year. In addition to these investments, we have got Rs. 47·65 lakhs invested in Government securities and Rs. 27 lakhs as fixed deposits in banks. I have given you only the main items of investments which alone thus total Rs. 256 lakhs. The details of the other advances and investments will be found in the budget statement.

COCHIN PORT

7. Practically all the works pertaining to the Fourth Stage Works have been completed. The laying of the permanent track of the harbour railway was completed during the course

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly